

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN RE: APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION AS : DOCKET NO. 5044
ELIGIBLE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE FILED :
BY BLACKSTONE HYDRO ASSOCIATES, LLC :
– NEW GENERATION :**

ORDER

On July 14, 2020, Blackstone Hydro Associates, LLC¹ (Company) filed with the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (PUC) an application seeking certification for its Central Falls Hydroelectric Project Generation Unit, a 0.74 MW AC small hydro energy Generation Unit located in Central Falls, Rhode Island as an eligible New, Repowered Renewable Energy Resource² in accordance with the PUC's Rules and Regulations Governing the Implementation of a Renewable Energy Standard (Rules) and R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26-1.

The Company provided supplemental and clarifying information was provided to PUC staff and their application review consultant from August 21, 2020 through September 15, 2020 in response to the application review consultant's request for said information from August 14, 2020 through September 10, 2020. The supplemental and clarifying information included: a) provision of an Appendix C, b) copies of relevant FERC re-licensing application documents, c) clarification regarding anticipated increased annual production and total site efficiency of the planned repowered facility, and d) evidence of plans to participate in the Renewable Energy Growth program.

¹ The authorized representative was identified as Robert Leahy, The Shoreline Corporation, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; Phone (617) 491-2320 x 130; Email: bleahy@theshorelinecorp.com.

² This New, Repowered project will totally replace the Prime Mover and associated equipment currently operating as Blackstone Hydro Associates (RI PUC Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Facility Certification Number RI-3822-E12).

After examination, the PUC is of the opinion that the application is proper, reasonable, and in compliance with the Rules and hereby grants the Company certification as an eligible renewable energy resource pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-26-1.³ The PUC's determination in this docket is based on the information submitted by the Company and the PUC may reverse its ruling or revoke the Company's certification if any material information provided by the Company proves to be false or misleading.

Accordingly, it is hereby

(23911) ORDERED:

1) The Central Falls Hydroelectric Project Generation Unit meets the requirements for eligibility as a New, Repowered Small Hydro Renewable Energy Resource (current GIS certification number: NON34498) with its planned 0.740 MW AC, Grid-Connected Generation Unit having a targeted Commercial Operation Date of December 31, 2022 and located within the NEPOOL control area in Central Fall, Rhode Island.

2) As a Generation Unit which has not yet achieved Commercial Operation, eligibility is granted with conditional requirements that the Company provide the PUC with: a) written documentation verifying Commercial Operation, b) evidence of the Repowered project construction showing complete removal of existing Prime Mover and replacement with new turbines and associated equipment consistent with the specifications included in the approved application, c) evidence of actual project expenditures and compliance with regulatory requirements that at least 80% of resulting tax basis of the entire Generation Unit's plant and equipment is derived from capital

³ Pursuant to Section 2.6 and other relevant Sections of the Rules, a thirty-day period for public comment was provided during which time no such comments were received.

expenditures made after December 31, 1997, and d) an updated Excel spreadsheet showing the anticipated energy output and percentage increase above pre-improvement conditions reflecting actual equipment and efficiencies installed.

3) Following receipt from the Company of acceptable written documentation supporting the Generation Unit's Commercial Operation Date and related conditions specified in number paragraph 2 above, PUC staff is hereby authorized to assign a unique Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission Eligible Renewable Energy Resource Facility Certification Number for the Company's Generation Unit.

4) The facility's Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) become Rhode Island-eligible effective on the day when the Rhode Island certification number is issued. All RECs associated with the production of eligible energy that are minted on or after the Effective Date are eligible for the Renewable Energy Standard.

5) Although the PUC will rely upon the NEPOOL GIS for verification of production of energy from the Company's Generation Unit certified as eligible in this Order, the Company will provide information and access as necessary to the PUC, or persons acting on its behalf, to conduct audits or site visits to assist in verification of continued eligibility for and compliance with Rhode Island Renewable Energy Standard Certification at any time, at the PUC's discretion.

6) The Company shall notify the PUC in the event of a change in the facility's eligibility status.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2020
PURSUANT TO AN OPEN MEETING DECISION ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2020.
WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED OCTOBER 1, 2020.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



Ronald T. Gerwatowski, Chairman



Marion S. Gold, Commissioner



Abigail Anthony, Commissioner

NOTICE OF RIGHT OF APPEAL: Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 39-5-1, any person aggrieved by a decision or order of the PUC may, within seven days from the date of the order, petition the Supreme Court for a Writ of Certiorari to review the legality and reasonableness of the decision or order.